

**NEUROLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOUR**—Ciba Foundation Symposium—G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Ch., and Cecilia M. O'Connor, B.Sc., Editors for the Ciba Foundation. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1958. 400 pages, with 109 illustrations, \$9.00.

This book contains the proceedings of a symposium held in London in 1957, under the auspices of the Ciba Foundation, in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great physiologist Sir Charles Sherrington. Quite properly it deals with the function of the nervous system which was Sherrington's chosen field. The participants include almost all the well known figures in the field of neurological research. Although the presentations of individual subjects is by an authority in that field, the discussion that followed is most illuminating in presenting the thoughts of others in relation to the problem which is helpful in allowing the reader to form his own opinion of the acceptance of the theory presented. Although all physicians will not want to read the book in its entirety, it is an extremely useful reference work and saves a great deal of time that would be required to search out the contributions presented here under one cover.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.

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**PROGRESS IN RADIATION THERAPY**—Edited by Franz Buschke, M.D., Professor of Radiology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, with 13 contributors. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York, 1958. 284 pages, \$9.75.

In the introduction to this monograph on certain aspects of recent progress in radiation therapy, the editor paraphrases Berenson: "There seems to us a tendency to look on change as meaning improvement, on motion as synonymous with advance. Advance means progress to something better, and not progress to something new; some of the more significant advances have lain in the rejection of innovations and re-development of methods once rejected." The editor goes on to stress the importance of sound clinical judgment in radiotherapy, careful correlation of radiologic physics and gross pathology, and constant cooperation with colleagues in associated disciplines. Better training of radiologists, better understanding of biologic effect of radiation, and better appreciation of patient tolerance are regarded as prime components of recent progress.

The book is divided into a series of thirteen chapters, the first two dealing with a short history of radiation therapy and of radiation sources for cancer therapy.

There is then a series of three chapters dealing with biologic effects, time-dose relationship and chemical modification of radiation effects. There is an important chart published on page 107 illustrating skin tolerance for different sizes of fields, using protracted irradiation. In subsequent editions it would be worthwhile enlarging this chart, since it is one of the clues to the importance of "sensible" protraction.

There is then a series of eight chapters dealing with more specific items, such as the significance of the cytotoxic response in radiotherapy of carcinoma of the cervix, the radiocurability of renal embryoma, the results of radiotherapy of malignant intracranial neoplasm, and the tolerance of the central nervous system to irradiation. There is an excellent chapter on the present status of radiotherapy in carcinoma of the thyroid, a rather long one on the treatment of non-malignant diseases of the eye and a philosophic disquisition on radiotherapy as a medical specialty.

Jean Bouchard stresses in the chapter on radiotherapy of brain tumors that he prefers orthovoltage (energy levels of 0.25 MEV) and careful crossfiring to megavoltage. He states his belief, "that there are not many cases of intracranial neoplasms which are really suitable for rotational

technique. Certainly, in the treatment of pituitary tumors, I would use only small lateral opposing fields in order that a minimum volume of cerebral tissue be irradiated."

The thirteen authors come from various parts of the United States, Canada and France. Most of them are clinical radiologists, and some effectively function or did function for many years in both the diagnostic and therapeutic spheres. This point is mentioned because the continuation of availability of good clinical radiotherapy in smaller cities in this country requires that the radiologist be competent in both diagnosis and therapy.

This reviewer noted only two minor errata. On page 21, second paragraph, the author of the entertaining quotation is not given. On page 27, last paragraph, the term "beeps" should undoubtedly be "reps." The work is nicely printed and illustrated.

L. H. GARLAND, M.B.

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**PEDIATRIC INDEX—A Guide to Symptomatology, Diagnosis and Current Management**—Edwin F. Patton, M.D., Beverly Hills, California. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1958. 639 pages, \$13.50.

This volume is a guide to symptomatology, diagnosis and current management of pediatric disease. Any approach to the study of a patient by way of his leading complaints is most likely to be rewarding in the hands of an experienced practitioner. Accordingly, the busy pediatrician, general practitioner, or teacher of clinical pediatrics is likely to feel at home using this book, and to find it helpful. It would be less appropriate in the hands of a medical student. It consists of two main parts—the first, a symptom index intended to suggest the correct diagnosis; the second, a reminder of possible differential diagnoses and confirmatory tests and procedures which may prove useful.

Much depends on the thoroughness with which this sort of an approach is carried out. In the present instance the author has done an excellent job in this respect. The manner of presentation and ease of scanning is also to be commended. It is predicted this book will prove useful and popular.

WILLIAM DEAMER, M.D.

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**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE SURGICAL PATIENT**—J. Englebert Dunphy, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School; Director of 5th Surgical Service and Sears Surgical Laboratory, Boston City Hospital; Consultant in Surgery, Children's Medical Center; and Thomas W. Botsford, M.D., F.A.C.S., Clinical Associate in Surgery, Harvard Medical School; Senior Associate in Surgery, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital; Associate in Surgery, Children's Medical Center. Second Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1958. 375 pages, \$8.00.

This book of somewhat over 300 pages and over 200 illustrations is a book of procedure and technique in the examination of a surgical patient. It is divided into two parts; namely, the elective examination and the emergency examination. Each of these is again subdivided into procedures relating to the specific anatomical area being examined, and stresses not only the history but also findings which might be elicited in a given area. It is written for the specific needs of student, house officer and practitioner of medicine. It is indeed a book which any physician, regardless of specialty, might well use to refresh himself. The reviewer found the book most interesting and he was impressed and marvelled that so much knowledge could be imparted in such a short treatise. The authors have given concise, yet detailed, information. Likewise, the book is well illustrated and one might say well worth the money.

C. J. BAUMGARTNER, M.D.